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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 001525

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, EAP/RSP, ISN, ISN/RA, NEA  
NSC FOR J.BADER, D.WALTON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/14/2019

TAGS: PREL MNUC KNNP PARM ID IR

SUBJECT: IRAN -- WORKING WITH INDONESIA TO EXPAND THE CHORUS

REF: STATE 95073

Classified By: Pol/C Joseph L. Novak, reasons 1.4(b+d).

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: Mission has reviewed points re Iran's nuclear program with the GOI. Pol/C made the key point that it is vital that Indonesia help make Iran understand that it faces the possibility of additional sanctions if it spurns the international community. We urged that Indonesia make core points during bilateral discussions held on the margins of UNGA, during Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) meetings and at the IAEA General Conference. Presidential Palace and Department of Foreign Affairs contacts took our points on board. With the election season in Indonesia over, we think the GOI might be more inclined to be helpful on this issue.  
END SUMMARY.

MAKING KEY POINTS

¶2. (C) Mission has reviewed reftel points re Iran's nuclear program with the GOI. Pol/C discussed the points with Astari Daenuwy, an international affairs assistant at the Presidential Palace, and with Cicilia Rusdiharini of the Americas Desk at the Department of Foreign Affairs on September 14. Pol/C underlined that the USG fully supports Iran's right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy consistent with its NPT obligations. He expressed concern that, should Iran not engage in a meaningful way with the P5 1/E3 3 so as to resolve international concerns about its nuclear program, it will likely face additional, harsher sanctions. Pol/C urged that the GOI make these points in its bilateral consultations held on the margins of UNGA, during NAM meetings, and at the IAEA General Conference.

GOI TAKES POINTS ON BOARD

¶3. (C) Our GOI contacts took the points on board. Daenuwy of the President's Office replied that the points were "important" and that "Indonesia would review them closely." She told Pol/C that the GOI understood that it had a role to play in the ongoing situation and "would work toward a peaceful resolution of outstanding issues." Rusdiharini of the Department of Foreign Affairs said her office would pass the USG points to the Office of the Foreign Minister (FonMin Wirajuda is slated to represent Indonesia at the upcoming UNGA). She added that the GOI was "aware that this situation was of high level interest internationally and vital to resolve."

WORKING TO MAKE INDONESIA MORE HELPFUL

¶4. (C) With the election season in Indonesia over, we think the GOI might be more inclined to be helpful on this issue. (Note: President Yudhoyono handily won re-election in July; his party dominated the parliamentary elections held in April.) During his successful re-election campaign, President Yudhoyono was very careful not to alienate Indonesia's "Islamic bloc" of parties and voters, which is not particularly friendly to the USG re Middle East issues. This led to ups and downs in Indonesia's voting record re Iran when it served on the UN Security Council from 2007-08. While Islamic-oriented parties remain a key part of his coalition, we think that Yudhoyono and his government will have somewhat more willingness now to work with the USG and others in the international community in terms of restraining Iran from making a difficult situation even worse. We'll continue to press the message.

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